

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01878 181432Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
/100 W

-----072206 181444Z /44/46,

O 101725Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9895

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MARIDD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNA S

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1878

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 2)

DAKAR ALSO FOR DEFENSE ATTACHE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MR, MORG

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON LT.COL. MUSTAPHA OULD MUHAMMED
SALEK

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 447, B. NOUAKCHOTT 1873

1. THE LEADER OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR RECTIFICA-
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01878 181432Z

TION LT. COL. MUSTAPHA OULD MUHAMED SALEK HAS NOT BEEN A
STRANGER TO POLITICS EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN. HE HAS HAD
TWO INCARNATIONS AS MAURITANIA'S MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF, ONE
IN THE BEGINNING OF 1969 AND AGAIN BEGINNING EARLY THIS
YEAR. ONE ACCOUNT OF HIS ACCESSION TO CHIEF OF STAFF IN
1969 RELATES THAT HE HAD BITTERLY DISAGREED WITH FORMER CHIEF
OF STAFF M'BAREK OULD BOUNA MOKHTAR ONR THE DEGREE OF

POLITICAL CONTROL OF ARMY WITH M'BAREK ADVOCATING INDEPENDENCE AND MUSTAPHA ADHERING TO VIEW THAT POLITICAL PARTY SHOULD CONTROL ARMY.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE UNCONFIRMED ACCOUNT, MUSTAPHA'S OPEN CRITICISM OF M'BAREK IN MEETING AT OFFICE OF DEFENSE MINISTER LED TO SUBSEQUENT FIST FIGHT OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS DURING WHICH MUSTAPHA WAS THOROUGHLY TROUNCED. HE THEREAFTER RETURNED TO TOWN VISITING FIRST THE HOSPITAL AND THEN HIS POLITICAL PARTY ALLIES. SOON THEREAFTER, M'BAREK WAS KICKED UPSTAIRS TO NEWLY CREATED POST OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AND MUSTAPHA BECAME CHIEF OF STAFF. M'BAREK WHO WAS NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER AS WELL AS CHIEF OF STAFF IN 1977 WAS AGAIN IN A SENSE REPLACED BY MUSTAPHA IN EARLY 1978 WHEN MOHAMED OULD BABA WAS NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER AND MUSTAPHA ONCE AGAIN TOOK OVER THE DUTIES OF CHIEF OF STAFF.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MUSTAPHA HAS CLEARLY DONE AN ABOUT FACE IN HIS VIEWS REGARDING PARTY SUPREMACY, HE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE RETAINED CONSERVATIVE PRO-WESTERN ATTITUDE THAT HE HAS HELD SINCE LATE 1960'S. HE SEEMS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US. HE HAS ACCEPTED DINNER INVITATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AS WELL AS WITH THE DCM AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IS ON CLOSE AND CORDIAL TERMS WITH THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE ACCREDITED TO NOUAKCHOTT BUT RESIDENT IN DAKAR.
KRYZA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC01878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780305-0119, D780282-0464
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780779/aaaacoqn.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac746078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NOUAKCHOTT 447, 78 NOUAKCHOTT 1873
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2066185
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON LT.COL. MUSTAPHA OULD MUHAMMED SALEK
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MORG, PINR, MR, (MUHAMED SALEK, MUSTAPHA OULD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac746078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014